

M Y S

MYSTÉRIOUS. *adj.* [*mysterieux*, French, from *mystery*.]
1. Inaccessible to the understanding; awfully obscure.
God at last

To Satan, first in sin, his doom apply'd,
Though in mysterious terms. *Milton's Par. Lost. b. x.*
Then the true Son of knowledge first appear'd,
And the old dark mysterious clouds were clear'd. *Denham.*

2. Artfully perplexed.
Those princes who were most distinguished for their mysterious skill in government, found, by the event, that they had ill consulted their own quiet, or the happiness of their people. *Swift's Thoughts on the State of Affairs.*

MYSTÉRIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *mysterious*.]
1. In a manner above understanding.

2. Obscurely; enigmatically.
Our duty of preparation contained in this one word, try or examine, being after the manner of mysteries, mysteriously and secretly described, there is reason to believe that there is in it very much duty. *Taylor's Worthy Communicant.*
Each stair mysteriously was meant. *Milton.*

MYSTÉRIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *mysterious*.]
1. Holy obscurity.

My purpose is, to gather together into an union all those several portions of truth, and differing apprehensions of mysteriousness. *Taylor's Worthy Communicant.*

2. Artful difficulty or perplexity.

To MYSTÉRISE. *v. a.* [from *mystery*.] To explain as enigmas.
Mysterizing their enigmas, they make the particular ones of the twelve tribes accommodable unto the twelve signs of the zodiac. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v.*

MYSTERY. *n. f.* [*μυστήριον*; *mysterion*, Fr.]

1. Something above human intelligence; something awfully obscure.

They can judge as fitly of his worth,
As I can of those mysteries which heav'n
Will not have earth to know. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

Upon holy days, let the matter of your meditations be according to the mystery of the day; and to your ordinary devotions of every day, add the prayer which is fitted to the mystery. *Taylor.*

If God should please to reveal unto us this great mystery of the trinity, or some other mysteries in our holy religion, we should not be able to understand them, unless he would bestow on us some new faculties of the mind. *Swift's Sermon.*

2. An enigma; any thing artfully made difficult.

To thy great comfort in this mystery of ill opinions, here's the twin brother of thy letter. *Shak. Mer. Wives of Windsor.*
Important truths still let your fables hold,
And moral mysteries with art unfold. *Granville.*

3. A trade; a calling: in this sense it should, according to Warburton, be written *mystery*, from *mysterion*, French, a trade.
And that which is the noblest mystery,
Brings to reproach and common infamy. *Habberd's Tale.*



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Instruction, manners, *mysteries* and trades,
Degrees, observances, customs and laws,
Decline to your confounding contraries. *Shakespeare.*

MYSTICAL. *adj.* [*mysticus*, Latin.]

1. Sacredly obscure.

Let God himself that made me, let not man that knows not himself, be my instructor concerning the mystical way to heaven. *Hooker, b. i.*

From salvation all flesh being excluded this way, God hath revealed a way mystical and supernatural. *Hooker, b. i.*

2. Involving some secret meaning; emblematical.

Ye five other wand'ring fires! that move
In mystick dance not without song, refund
His praise, who out of darkness call'd up light. *Milton.*
It is Christ's body in the sacrament and out of it; but in the sacrament not the natural truth, but the spiritual and mystical. *Taylor's Worthy Communicant.*

It is plain from the Apocalypse, that mystical Babylon is to be confuted by fire. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

3. Obscure; secret.

Left new fears disturb the happy state,
Know, I have search'd the mystick rolls of fate. *Dryden.*

MYSTICALLY. *adv.* [from *mystical*.] In a manner, or by an act, implying some secret meaning.

These two in thy sacred bosom hold,
Till mystically join'd but one they be. *Dante.*

MYSTICALNESS. *n. f.* [from *mystical*.] Involvement of some secret meaning.

MYTHOLOGICAL. *adj.* [from *mythology*.] Relating to the explanation of fabulous history.

The original of the conceit was probably hieroglyphical, which after became mythological, and by tradition stole into a total verity, which was but partially true in its covert sense and morality. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

MYTHOLOGICALLY. *adv.* [from *mythological*.] In a manner suitable to the system of fables.

MYTHOLOGIST. *n. f.* [from *mythology*.] A relator or expounder of the ancient fables of the heathens.

The grammarians and mythologists seem to be altogether unacquainted with his writings. *Cruch.*

It was a celebrated problem among ancient mythologists, What was the strongest thing, what the wisest, and what the greatest? *Norris's Miscell.*

To MYTHOLOGIZE. *v. n.* [from *mythology*.] To relate or explain the fabulous history of the heathens.

MYTHOLOGY. *n. f.* [*μυθολογία* and *λόγος*; *mythologia*, French.] System of fables; explication of the fabulous history of the gods of the heathen world.

The modesty of *mythology* deserves to be commended: the scenes there are laid at a distance; it is once upon a time, in the days of yore, and in the land of Utopia. *Bentley.*

N.

N A K

N, A semivowel, has in English an invariable sound; as, *no*, *name*, *net*; it is sometimes after *n* almost lost; as, *condemn*, *content*.

To NAB. *v. a.* [*nappa*, Swedish.]
To catch unexpectedly; to seize without warning. A word seldom used but in low language.

NADIR. *n. f.* [Arabic.] The point under foot directly opposite to the zenith.

As far as four bright signs comprise,
The distant zenith from the nadir lies. *Creech.*

NAFF. *n. f.* A kind of tufted sea-bird.

NAG. *n. f.* [*nagge*, Dutch.]

1. A small horse. A horse in familiar language.

A hungry lion would fain have been dealing with good horse-flesh; but the nag would be too fleet. *LeStrange.*

Thy nags, the leanest things alive,
So very hard thou lov'st to drive. *Prior.*

2. A paramour; in contempt.

Your ribaud nag of Egypt
Hoists sails, and flies. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleopatra.*

NAIL. *n. f.* [*naegel*, Saxon; *nagel*, German.]

1. The hard crust or horny substance at the ends of the fingers and toes.

My nails can reach unto thine eyes. *Shakespeare.*

The meanest sculptor in th' Æmilian square,
Can imitate in brass, the nails and hair;
Expert in trifles. *Dryden.*

The nails of our fingers give strength to those parts in the nerves and tendons that are under them. *Ray.*

2. The talons of birds and beasts.

3. A spike of metal by which things are fastened together.

As one nail by strength drives out another;
So the remembrance of my former love
Is by a newer object soon forgotten. *Shakespeare.*

For the body of the ships, no nation doth equal England,
nor for the oaken timber to build them; and we need not borrow iron for spikes or nails, to fasten them together. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*

The load-stone mines in the shore of India, are so placed in abundance and vigor, that it proves an adventure of hazard to pass those coasts in a ship with iron nails. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii. c. 3.*

A beechen nail
Hung by the handle, on a driven nail.
An equivocal word used for the nail of the hand or foot, and for an iron nail to fasten any thing. *Dryden.*

4. A Stud; a bolt.

5. A kind of measure; two inches and a quarter.

6. On the nail. Readily; immediately; without delay. I suppose from a counter fludded with nails.

We want our money on the nail,
The banker's ruin'd if he pays. *Swift's Poems.*

To NAIL. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To fasten with nails.

To the cross he nails thy enemies,
The law that is against thee, and the sins
Of all mankind, with him are crucify'd. *Milton's P. Lost.*

He clasp'd his hand upon the wounded part.
The second shaft came swift and unespied,
And pierc'd his hand, and nail'd it to his hide. *Dryden.*

2. To stud with nails.

In golden armour glorious to behold,
The rivets of your arms were nail'd with gold. *Dryden.*

3. To nail. *n. f.* [from *nail*.] One whose trade is to forge nails; a nail-maker.

NAKED. *adj.* [*nacob*, Saxon.]

1. Wanting cloaths; uncovered; bare.

A philosopher being asked in what a wife man differed from a fool? answered, send them both naked to those who know them not, and you shall perceive. *Bacon, Apophth. 242.*

He pitying how they rood
Before him naked to the air, that now

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Must suffer change;
As father of his family, he clad
Their nakedness with skins of beasts. *Milton, P. Lost.*

Ungrateful men,
Behold my bosom naked to your swords;
And let the man that's injur'd strike the blow. *Addison.*

2. Unarmed; defenceless; unprovided.

Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal
I serv'd my king, he would not in mine age
Have left me naked to mine enemies. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*

3. Plain; evident; not hidden.

The truth appears so naked on my side,
That any purblind eye may find it out. *Shakespeare, Hen. VI.*

4. Mere; bare; wanting the necessary additions; simple; abstracted.

Not that God doth require nothing unto happiness at the hands of men, saving only a naked belief, for hope and charity we may not exclude; but that without belief all other things are as nothing, and it is the ground of those other divine virtues. *Hooker, b. i. p. 37.*

NAKEDLY. *adv.*

1. Without covering.

2. Simply; merely; barely; in the abstract.

Though several single letters nakedly considered, are found to be articulations only of spirit or breath, and not of breath vocalized; yet there is that property in all letters of aptness, to be conjoined in syllables. *Hilder.*

3. Discoverably; evidently.

So blinds the sharpest counsels of the wise
This overshadowing Providence on high,
And dazzleth all their clearest sighted eyes,
That they see not how nakedly they lie. *Daniel Civil War.*

NAKEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *naked*.]

1. Nudity; want of covering.

My face I'll grime with filth;
And with presented nakedness out-face
The winds and persecutions of the sky. *Shak. K. Lear.*

Nor he their outward only, with the skins
Of beasts; but inward nakedness, much more
Opprobrious! with his robe of righteousness
Arrayings, cover'd from his father's sight. *Milton.*

I entreat my gentle readers to slow on their tuckers again, and not to imitate the nakedness, but the innocence of their mother Eve. *Addison's Guard. N. 100.*

Thou to be strong must put off every dress;
Thy only armour is thy nakedness. *Prior.*

2. Want of provision for defence.

Spies, to see the nakedness of the land are come. *Gen. xlii. 9.*

3. Plainness; evidence; want of concealment.

Why seek'st thou to cover with excuse
That which appears in proper nakedness? *Shakespeare.*

NAIL. *n. f.* An awl, such as collar-makers use; whole bridle and saddle, whitelather and nail, with collars and harness. *Tusser's Husb.*

NAME. *n. f.* [*nama*, Saxon; *naem*, Dutch; *anum*, Eric.]

1. The discriminative appellation of an individual.

What is thy name?
Thou'lt be afraid to hear it:
No: though thou call'st thyself a hotter name
Than any is in hell. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

He called their names after the names his father had called them. *Gen. xxvi. 18.*

2. The term by which any kind or species is distinguished.

What's in a name? That which we call a rose,
By any other name would smell as sweet. *Shakespeare.*

If every particular idea that we take in, should have a distinct name, names must be endless. *Locke.*

3. Person.

They list with women each degenerate name,
Who dares not hazard life for future fame. *Dryden.*

4. Reputation; character.